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selected according to the relative certainty or significance of the measured value of said cellular constituent.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors discovered by Attorneys for Applicants during review of the application. The specification has also been amended to update the status of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/074,983, now U.S. Patent No. 5,965,352.

Claims 1-69 were pending in the instant application. In a Response to Restriction Requirement filed on September 29, 2000, Applicants elected to prosecute claims 58-66 (Group II), drawn to a method for removing one or more artifacts from a measured biological profile. In the instant amendment, claims 65-66 have been canceled, without prejudice to Applicants's right to prosecute the subject matter of the canceled claims in related applications. Claims 58-64 have been amended and new claims 70-76 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. Upon entry of the above-made amendments, claims 58-64 and 70-76 will be pending in the present application. A courtesy copy of the pending claims, as amended, is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Claims 58 and 61 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention by including the recitation of "measurements of *a plurality of* cellular constituents" (emphasis added). Support for the amendment is found in the specification, e.g., at page 11, lines 30-35.

Claim 58 has also been amended to include the recitation that "each of said one or more artifact patterns corresponds to *an artifact*" (emphasis added). Support for the amendment is found in the specification at page 35, lines 4-27.

Claim 59 has been amended to include the recitation that "the one or more artifact patterns is determined by knowledge of the *variables that cause the respective artifact* and relative amplitudes of responses associated with *the respective artifact* to which the artifact pattern corresponds" (emphasis added). Support for the amendment is found in the specification at page 34, lines 25-32 and page 35, lines 4-6.

Claim 60 has been amended to more particularly point out that "each of the one or more artifact patterns is determined by experiments with perturbations of suspected causative variables of *the respective artifact* to which the artifact pattern corresponds" (emphasis

added). Support for the amendment is found in the specification at page 34, lines 25-32 and page 35, lines 6-8.

Claim 61 has been amended to more particularly point out that "the control biological profiles comprising measurements of a plurality of cellular constituents in experiments wherein the *respective* artifact to which the artifact pattern corresponds arises." (emphasis added) Support for the amendment is found in the specification at page 35, lines 8-9.

Claim 62 has been amended to more particularly point out that "each of the one or more artifact patterns having *an independent* scaling coefficient" (emphasis added). Support for the amendment is found in the specification at page 35, lines 10-21.

Claim 63 has been amended to more particularly point out that "the scaling coefficients are determined by a method comprising determining the *values of said scaling coefficients* such that the value of an objective function of the difference between the measured profile and the sum of the one or more scaled artifact patterns *is minimized*" (emphasis added). Support for the amendment is found in the specification at page 35, lines 10-21.

Claim 64 has been amended to more particularly point out that "the objective function is *minimized by* a least squares minimization" (emphasis added). Support for the amendment is found in the specification at page 35, lines 10-21.

New claims 70-76 have been added to more particularly point out the present invention. Support for claim 70 is found in the specification at page 35, lines 21-23. Support for claims 71-76 is found in the specification at page 35, line 29 through page 36, line 1 and at page 35, lines 15-23.

No new matter has been added by these amendments. Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and remarks into the file of the above-identified application. Applicants believe that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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